



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 877

LCO No. 3227

03227_____KID

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:
(KID)

***AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE
CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 17a-3 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

3 (a) The department shall plan, create, develop, operate or arrange
4 for, administer and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated
5 state-wide program of services, including preventive services, for
6 children and youths whose behavior does not conform to the law or to
7 acceptable community standards, or who are mentally ill, including
8 deaf and hearing impaired children and youths who are mentally ill,
9 emotionally disturbed, substance abusers, delinquent, abused,
10 neglected or uncared for, including all children and youths who are or
11 may be committed to it by any court, and all children and youths
12 voluntarily admitted to, or remaining voluntarily under the
13 supervision of, the commissioner for services of any kind. Services
14 shall not be denied to any such child or youth solely because of other
15 complicating or multiple disabilities. The department shall work in

16 cooperation with other child-serving agencies and organizations to
17 provide or arrange for preventive programs, including, but not limited
18 to, teenage pregnancy and youth suicide prevention, for children and
19 youths and their families. The program shall provide services and
20 placements that are clinically indicated and appropriate to the needs of
21 the child or youth. In furtherance of this purpose, the department
22 shall: (1) Maintain the Connecticut Juvenile Training School and other
23 appropriate facilities exclusively for delinquents; (2) develop a
24 comprehensive program for prevention of problems of children and
25 youths and provide a flexible, innovative and effective program for the
26 placement, care and treatment of children and youths committed by
27 any court to the department, transferred to the department by other
28 departments, or voluntarily admitted to the department; (3) provide
29 appropriate services to families of children and youths as needed to
30 achieve the purposes of sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, as amended
31 by this act, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, and 17a-51; (4) establish
32 incentive paid work programs for children and youths under the care
33 of the department and the rates to be paid such children and youths
34 for work done in such programs and may provide allowances to
35 children and youths in the custody of the department; (5) be
36 responsible to collect, interpret and publish statistics relating to
37 children and youths within the department; (6) conduct studies of any
38 program, service or facility developed, operated, contracted for or
39 supported by the department in order to evaluate its effectiveness; (7)
40 establish staff development and other training and educational
41 programs designed to improve the quality of departmental services
42 and programs, provided no social worker trainee shall be assigned a
43 case load prior to completing training, and may establish educational
44 or training programs for children, youths, parents or other interested
45 persons on any matter related to the promotion of the well-being of
46 children, or the prevention of mental illness, emotional disturbance,
47 delinquency and other disabilities in children and youths; (8) develop
48 and implement aftercare and follow-up services appropriate to the
49 needs of any child or youth under the care of the department; (9)

50 establish a case audit unit to monitor each area office's compliance
51 with regulations and procedures; (10) develop and maintain a database
52 listing available community service programs funded by the
53 department; (11) provide outreach and assistance to persons caring for
54 children whose parents are unable to do so by informing such persons
55 of programs and benefits for which they may be eligible; and (12)
56 collect data sufficient to identify the housing needs of children served
57 by the department and share such data with the Department of
58 Economic and Community Development.

59 [(b) The department shall prepare and submit biennially to the
60 General Assembly a five-year master plan. The master plan shall
61 include, but not be limited to: (1) The long-range goals and the current
62 level of attainment of such goals of the department; (2) a detailed
63 description of the types and amounts of services presently provided to
64 the department's clients; (3) a detailed forecast of the service needs of
65 current and projected target populations; (4) detailed cost projections
66 for alternate means of meeting projected needs; (5) funding priorities
67 for each of the five years included in the plan and specific plans
68 indicating how the funds are to be used; (6) a written plan for the
69 prevention of child abuse and neglect; (7) a comprehensive mental
70 health plan for children and adolescents, including children with
71 complicating or multiple disabilities; (8) a comprehensive plan for
72 children and youths who are substance abusers, developed in
73 conjunction with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction
74 Services pursuant to the provisions of sections 19a-2a and 19a-7; and
75 (9) an overall assessment of the adequacy of children's services in
76 Connecticut. The plan shall be prepared within existing funds
77 appropriated to the department.]

78 (b) (1) The department shall develop and regularly update a single,
79 comprehensive strategic plan for meeting the needs of children and
80 families served by the department. In developing and updating the
81 strategic plan, including setting goals, the department shall consult
82 with representatives of the children and families served by the

83 department, providers of services to children and families, advocates
84 and others interested in the well-being of children and families in this
85 state. The strategic plan shall include, but not be limited to: (A) The
86 department's mission statement; (B) the goals of the department, each
87 of its mandated areas and each of its programs and services; (C) a
88 schedule of steps and a time frame for achieving such goals and
89 fulfilling its mission; (D) priorities for services and estimates of the
90 funding and other resources necessary to carry them out; (E) standards
91 for programs and services; and (F) relevant measures of progress.

92 (2) The department shall begin the strategic planning process on
93 July 1, 2009. The department shall submit the strategic plan to the State
94 Advisory Council on Children and Families for review and comment
95 prior to its final submission to the General Assembly and the
96 Governor. On or before July 1, 2010, the department shall submit the
97 strategic plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a, to the
98 General Assembly and the Governor.

99 (3) The commissioner shall track and report on progress in
100 achieving the strategic plan's goals not later than October 1, 2010, and
101 quarterly thereafter, to the State Advisory Council on Children and
102 Families. The commissioner shall submit a status report on carrying
103 out the strategic plan, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
104 4a, not later than July 1, 2011, and annually thereafter to the General
105 Assembly and the Governor.

106 (c) The department shall prepare a plan to keep children who are
107 convicted as delinquent and will be committed to the Department of
108 Children and Families and placed in the Connecticut Juvenile Training
109 School in such facility for at least one year after their referral to the
110 department, which plan shall include provisions for development of a
111 comprehensive approach to juvenile rehabilitation.

112 Sec. 2. Subsection (b) of section 17a-6 of the general statutes is
113 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
114 *1, 2009*):

115 (b) Administer in a coordinated and integrated manner all
116 institutions and facilities which are or may come under the jurisdiction
117 of the department and [may] shall appoint advisory groups for any
118 such institution or facility.

119 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The facilities that come
120 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Children and Families, as
121 enumerated in section 17a-32 of the general statutes, shall submit an
122 annual report to their respective advisory groups, established pursuant
123 to subsection (b) of section 17a-6 of the general statutes, as amended by
124 this act. The report shall include, but not be limited to: (1) Aggregate
125 profiles of the residents; (2) a description of and update on major
126 initiatives; (3) key outcome indicators and results; (4) costs associated
127 with operating the facility; and (5) a description of educational,
128 vocational and literacy programs, and behavioral, treatment and other
129 services available to the residents and their outcomes. Each report
130 submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be posted on the
131 department's web site.

132 (b) Such advisory groups shall respond to their facilities' annual
133 report, as required by subsection (a) of this section, and provide any
134 recommendations for improvement or enhancement that they deem
135 necessary.

136 (c) The Department of Children and Families shall serve as
137 administrative staff of such advisory groups.

138 Sec. 4. Section 17a-27f of the general statutes is repealed and the
139 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

140 [(a) The Department of Children and Families shall establish a
141 public safety committee in the municipality in which the Connecticut
142 Juvenile Training School is located. The committee shall be composed
143 of the superintendent of said school and representatives appointed by
144 the chief elected official of the municipality. The committee shall meet
145 not less than quarterly to review safety and security issues which affect

146 the host municipality.]

147 [(b)] At the time the Connecticut Juvenile Training School becomes
148 operational, the Department of Children and Families shall ensure that
149 a community security and alert system [shall be] is functional.

150 Sec. 5. Section 46a-13l of the general statutes is repealed and the
151 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

152 (a) The Child Advocate shall:

153 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to children by state agencies
154 and those entities that provide services to children through funds
155 provided by the state;

156 (2) Review periodically the procedures established by any state
157 agency providing services to children to carry out the provisions of
158 sections 46a-13k to 46a-13q, inclusive, with a view toward the rights of
159 the children and recommend revisions to such procedures;

160 (3) Review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state
161 or municipal agency providing services to children and of any entity
162 that provides services to children through funds provided by the state,
163 make appropriate referrals and investigate those where the Child
164 Advocate determines that a child or family may be in need of
165 assistance from the Child Advocate or that a systemic issue in the
166 state's provision of services to children is raised by the complaint;

167 (4) Pursuant to an investigation, provide assistance to a child or
168 family who the Child Advocate determines is in need of such
169 assistance including, but not limited to, advocating with an agency,
170 provider or others on behalf of the best interests of the child;

171 (5) Periodically review the facilities and procedures of any and all
172 institutions or residences, public or private, where a juvenile has been
173 placed by any agency or department;

174 (6) Recommend changes in state policies concerning children
175 including changes in the system of providing juvenile justice, child
176 care, foster care and treatment;

177 (7) Take all possible action including, but not limited to, conducting
178 programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and
179 making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action, in order
180 to secure and ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children who
181 reside in this state;

182 (8) Provide training and technical assistance to attorneys
183 representing children and guardians ad litem appointed by the
184 Superior Court;

185 (9) Periodically review the number of special needs children in any
186 foster care or permanent care facility and recommend changes in the
187 policies and procedures for the placement of such children;

188 (10) Serve or designate a person to serve as a member of the child
189 fatality review panel established in subsection (b) of this section; and

190 (11) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the
191 Office of the Child Advocate, the purpose of the office and procedures
192 to contact the office.

193 (b) There is established a child fatality review panel composed of
194 thirteen permanent members as follows: The Child Advocate, or a
195 designee; the Commissioners of Children and Families, Public Health
196 and Public Safety, or their designees; the Chief Medical Examiner, or a
197 designee; the Chief State's Attorney, or a designee; a pediatrician,
198 appointed by the Governor; a representative of law enforcement,
199 appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate; an attorney,
200 appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; a social work
201 professional, appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; a
202 representative of a community service group appointed by the speaker
203 of the House of Representatives; a psychologist, appointed by the

204 majority leader of the House of Representatives; and an injury
205 prevention representative, appointed by the minority leader of the
206 House of Representatives. A majority of the panel may select not more
207 than three additional temporary members with particular expertise or
208 interest to serve on the panel. Such temporary members shall have the
209 same duties and powers as the permanent members of the panel. The
210 chairperson shall be elected from among the panel's permanent
211 members. The panel shall, to the greatest extent possible, reflect the
212 ethnic, cultural and geographic diversity of the state.

213 (c) The panel shall review the circumstances of the death of a child
214 placed in out-of-home care or whose death was due to unexpected or
215 unexplained causes to facilitate development of prevention strategies
216 to address identified trends and patterns of risk and to improve
217 coordination of services for children and families in the state. Members
218 of the panel shall not be compensated for their services, but may be
219 reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of
220 their duties.

221 (d) On or before January 1, 2000, and annually thereafter, the panel
222 shall issue an annual report which shall include its findings and
223 recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on its
224 review of child fatalities for the preceding year.

225 (e) Upon request of two-thirds of the members of the panel and
226 within available appropriations, the Governor, the General Assembly
227 or at the Child Advocate's discretion, the Child Advocate shall conduct
228 an in-depth investigation and review and issue a report with
229 recommendations on the death or critical incident of a child. The
230 report shall be submitted to the Governor, the General Assembly and
231 the commissioner of any state agency cited in the report and shall be
232 made available to the general public.

233 (f) Any state agency cited in a report issued by the Office of the
234 Child Advocate, pursuant to the Child Advocate's responsibilities
235 under this section, shall submit a written response to the report and

236 recommendations made in the report to the Office of the Child
237 Advocate and, in the case of a report pursuant to subsection (e) of this
238 section, to the fatality review panel not later than sixty days after
239 receipt of such report and recommendations. The agency shall also
240 submit a copy of such response to the Governor and the General
241 Assembly. The response shall include, but not be limited to: (A)
242 Proposed corrective actions to address identified problems; and (B) a
243 time frame for implementation of improvements.

244 ~~[(f)]~~ (g) The Chief Medical Examiner shall provide timely notice to
245 the Child Advocate and to the chairperson of the child fatality review
246 panel of the death of any child that is to be investigated pursuant to
247 section 19a-406.

248 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) Any agency having responsibility for the custody or care of
249 children shall provide timely notice to the Child Advocate and the
250 chairperson of the child fatality review panel of the death of a child or
251 a critical incident involving a child in its custody or care.

252 Sec. 6. Section 17a-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the
253 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

254 (a) There shall be a State Advisory Council on Children and
255 Families which shall consist of seventeen members appointed by the
256 Governor, including at least five persons who are child care
257 professionals, one child psychiatrist licensed to practice medicine in
258 this state and at least one attorney. The balance of the advisory council
259 shall be representative of young persons, parents and others interested
260 in the delivery of services to children and youths. No less than fifty per
261 cent of the council's members shall be parents or family members of
262 children who have received, or are receiving, behavioral health
263 services, child welfare services or juvenile services and no more than
264 half the members of the council shall be persons who receive income
265 from a private practice or any public or private agency that delivers
266 mental health, substance abuse, child abuse prevention and treatment,
267 child welfare services or juvenile services. Members of the council shall

268 serve without compensation, except for necessary expenses incurred in
269 the performance of their duties. The department shall provide the
270 council with funding to facilitate the participation of those members
271 representing families, as well as for other administrative support
272 services. Members shall serve on the council for terms of two years
273 each and no member shall serve for more than two consecutive terms.
274 The commissioner shall be an ex-officio member of the council without
275 vote and shall attend its meetings. Any member who fails to attend
276 three consecutive meetings or fifty per cent of all meetings during any
277 calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. The council shall elect
278 a chairperson and vice-chairperson to act in the chairperson's absence.

279 (b) The council shall meet quarterly, and more often upon the call of
280 the chair or a majority of the members. The council's meetings shall be
281 held at locations that facilitate participation by members of the public,
282 and its agenda and minutes shall be posted on the department's web
283 site. A majority of the members in office, but not less than six
284 members, shall constitute a quorum. The council shall have complete
285 access to all records of the institutions and facilities of the department
286 in furtherance of its duties, while at all times protecting the right of
287 privacy of all individuals involved, as provided in section 17a-28.

288 (c) The duties of the council shall be to: (1) Recommend to the
289 commissioner programs, legislation or other matters which will
290 improve services for children and youths, including behavioral health
291 services; (2) annually review and advise the commissioner regarding
292 the proposed budget; (3) interpret to the community at large the
293 policies, duties and programs of the department; [and] (4) issue any
294 reports it deems necessary to the Governor and the Commissioner of
295 Children and Families; (5) establish a committee, to be appointed by
296 the chairperson of the council and shall consist of individuals who are
297 knowledgeable about issues relative to children and youth in need of
298 behavioral health services and family supports, including, but not
299 limited to, parents and guardians of children with behavioral health
300 needs, to fulfill the state's mental health planning and advisory council

301 responsibilities under Public Laws 99-660, 101-639 and 102-321; (6)
302 review and comment on the strategic plan developed by the
303 department pursuant to subsection (b) of section 17a-3, as amended by
304 this act; (7) receive on a quarterly basis from the commissioner a status
305 report on the department's progress in carrying out the strategic plan;
306 (8) independently monitor the department's progress in achieving its
307 goals as expressed in the strategic plan; and (9) offer assistance and
308 provide an outside perspective to the department so that it may be able
309 to achieve the goals expressed in the strategic plan.

310 Sec. 7. Section 17a-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
311 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

312 As used in sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, as amended by this
313 act, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, 17a-127 and 46b-120, unless otherwise
314 provided in said sections:

315 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Children and
316 Families;

317 (2) "Council" means the State Advisory Council on Children and
318 Families;

319 [(3) "Advisory committee" means the Children's Behavioral Health
320 Advisory Committee to the council;]

321 [(4)] (3) "Department" means the Department of Children and
322 Families;

323 [(5)] (4) "Child" means any person under sixteen years of age;

324 [(6)] (5) "Youth" means any person at least sixteen years of age and
325 under nineteen years of age;

326 [(7)] (6) "Delinquent child" shall have the meaning ascribed thereto
327 in section 46b-120;

328 [(8)] (7) "Child or youth with behavioral health needs" means a child

329 or youth who is suffering from one or more mental disorders as
330 defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric
331 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders";

332 [(9)] (8) "Individual service plan" means a written plan to access
333 specialized, coordinated and integrated care for a child or youth with
334 complex behavioral health service needs that is designed to meet the
335 needs of the child or youth and his or her family and may include,
336 when appropriate (A) an assessment of the individual needs of the
337 child or youth, (B) an identification of service needs, (C) an
338 identification of services that are currently being provided, (D) an
339 identification of opportunities for full participation by parents or
340 emancipated minors, (E) a reintegration plan when an out-of-home
341 placement is made or recommended, (F) an identification of criteria for
342 evaluating the effectiveness and appropriateness of such plan, and (G)
343 coordination of the individual service plan with any educational
344 services provided to the child or youth. The plan shall be subject to
345 review at least every six months or upon reasonable request by the
346 parent based on a changed circumstance, and be approved, in writing,
347 by the parents, guardian of a child or youth and emancipated minors;

348 [(10)] (9) "Family" means a child or youth with behavioral health
349 needs and (A) one or more biological or adoptive parents, except for a
350 parent whose parental rights have been terminated, (B) one or more
351 persons to whom legal custody or guardianship has been given, or (C)
352 one or more adults who have a primary responsibility for providing
353 continuous care to such child or youth;

354 [(11)] (10) "Parent" means a biological or adoptive parent, except a
355 parent whose parental rights have been terminated;

356 [(12)] (11) "Guardian" means a person who has a judicially created
357 relationship between a child or youth and such person that is intended
358 to be permanent and self-sustaining as evidenced by the transfer to
359 such person of the following parental rights with respect to the child or
360 youth: (A) The obligation of care and control; (B) the authority to make

361 major decisions affecting the child's or youth's welfare, including, but
362 not limited to, consent determinations regarding marriage, enlistment
363 in the armed forces and major medical, psychiatric or surgical
364 treatment; (C) the obligation of protection of the child or youth; (D) the
365 obligation to provide access to education; and (E) custody of the child
366 or youth;

367 [(13)] (12) "Serious emotional disturbance" and "seriously
368 emotionally disturbed" means, with regard to a child or youth, that the
369 child or youth (A) has a range of diagnosable mental, behavioral or
370 emotional disorders of sufficient duration to meet diagnostic criteria
371 specified in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric
372 Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders",
373 and (B) exhibits behaviors that substantially interfere with or limit the
374 child's or youth's ability to function in the family, school or community
375 and are not a temporary response to a stressful situation;

376 [(14)] (13) "Child or youth with complex behavioral health service
377 needs" means a child or youth with behavioral health needs who needs
378 specialized, coordinated behavioral health services;

379 [(15)] (14) "Transition services" means services in the areas of
380 education, employment, housing and community living designed to
381 assist a youth with a serious emotional disturbance who is
382 transitioning into adulthood; and

383 [(16)] (15) "Community collaborative" means a local consortium of
384 public and private health care providers, parents and guardians of
385 children with behavioral health needs and service and education
386 agencies that have organized to develop coordinated comprehensive
387 community resources for children or youths with complex behavioral
388 health service needs and their families in accordance with principles
389 and goals of Connecticut Community KidCare.

390 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 17a-22b of the general statutes is
391 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*

392 1, 2009):

393 (a) Each community collaborative shall, within available
 394 appropriations, (1) complete a local needs assessment which shall
 395 include objectives and performance measures, (2) specify the number
 396 of children and youths requiring behavioral health services, and (3)
 397 specify the number of children and youths actually receiving
 398 community-based and residential services and the type and frequency
 399 of such services. [, and (4) complete an annual self-evaluation process
 400 and a review of discharge summaries.] Each community collaborative
 401 shall submit its local needs assessment to the Commissioner of
 402 Children and Families and the Commissioner of Social Services.

403 Sec. 9. Section 17a-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 404 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

405 No person or entity shall care for or board a child without a license
 406 obtained from the Commissioner of Children and Families, except: (1)
 407 When a child has been placed by a person or entity holding a license
 408 from the commissioner; (2) any residential educational institution
 409 exempted by the state Board of Education under the provisions of
 410 section 17a-152; (3) residential facilities licensed by the Department of
 411 Developmental Services pursuant to section 17a-227; (4) facilities
 412 providing child day care services, as defined in section 19a-77; or (5)
 413 any home that houses students participating in a program described in
 414 subparagraph (B) of subdivision (8) of section 10a-29. The person or
 415 entity seeking a child-care facility license shall file with the
 416 commissioner an application for a license, in such form as the
 417 commissioner furnishes, stating the location where it is proposed to
 418 care for such child, the number of children to be cared for, in the case
 419 of a corporation, the purpose of the corporation and the names of its
 420 chief officers and of the actual person responsible for the child. The
 421 Commissioner of Children and Families is authorized to fix the
 422 maximum number of children to be boarded and cared for in any such
 423 home or institution or by any person or entity licensed by the

424 commissioner. [Each person or entity holding a license under the
425 provisions of this section shall file annually, with the commissioner, a
426 report stating the number of children received and removed during
427 the year, the number of deaths and the causes of death, the average
428 cost of support per capita and such other data as the commissioner
429 may prescribe.] If the population served at any facility, institution or
430 home operated by any person or entity licensed under this section
431 changes after such license is issued, such person or entity shall file a
432 new license application with the commissioner, and the commissioner
433 shall notify the chief executive officer of the municipality in which the
434 facility is located of such new license application, except that no
435 confidential client information may be disclosed.

436 Sec. 10. Section 17a-37 of the general statutes is repealed and the
437 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

438 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall establish a
439 school district within the Department of Children and Families, for the
440 education or assistance of any child or youth who resides in or receives
441 day treatment at any state-operated institution or facility within that
442 department and whose needs require that his education be provided
443 within the institution in which he resides or at which he receives day
444 treatment. The school district shall be known as State of Connecticut-
445 Unified School District #2. The Commissioner of Children and
446 Families shall administer, coordinate and control the operations of the
447 school district and shall be responsible for the overall supervision and
448 direction of all courses and activities of the school district and shall
449 establish such vocational and academic education, research and
450 statistics, training and development services and programs as he
451 considers necessary or advisable in the best interests of the persons
452 benefiting therefrom. The commissioner or his designee shall be the
453 superintendent of said district and shall act in accordance with the
454 applicable provisions of section 10-157.

455 (b) The superintendent of the school district shall have the power to

456 (1) establish and maintain within the Department of Children and
457 Families such schools of different grades as he may from time to time
458 require and deem necessary; (2) establish and maintain within the
459 department such school libraries as may from time to time be required
460 in connection with the educational courses, services and programs
461 authorized by this section; (3) purchase, receive, hold and convey
462 personal property for school purposes and equip and supply such
463 schools with necessary furniture and other appendages; (4) make
464 agreements and regulations for the establishing and conducting of the
465 district's schools and employ and dismiss, in accordance with the
466 applicable provisions of section 10-151, such teachers as are necessary
467 to carry out the intent of this section and to pay their salaries; (5)
468 receive any federal funds or aid made available to the state for such
469 programs and shall be eligible for and may receive any other funds or
470 aid whether private, state or otherwise, to be used for the purposes of
471 this section.

472 (c) The superintendent of the school district may cooperate with the
473 federal government in carrying out the purposes of any federal law
474 pertaining to the education of students within his school district, and
475 may adopt such methods of administration as are found by the federal
476 government to be necessary, and may comply with such conditions as
477 may be necessary to secure the full benefit of all such federal funds
478 available.

479 [(d) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall annually
480 evaluate the progress and accomplishments of the school district
481 established in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. Said
482 commissioner shall submit annual evaluation reports to the
483 Commissioner of Education in order to apprise the State Board of
484 Education of the true condition, progress and needs of said school
485 district. Said commissioner shall follow procedures adopted by the
486 Commissioner of Education in preparation of annual evaluation
487 reports.]

488 Sec. 11. Section 17a-22c of the general statutes is repealed and the
489 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

490 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the
491 Commissioner of Social Services shall establish performance measures
492 in the areas of finance, administration, utilization, client satisfaction,
493 quality and access for Connecticut Community KidCare.

494 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families shall develop and
495 implement, within available appropriations, culturally appropriate
496 and competency-based curricula including best practices for the care of
497 children and youths with, or at risk of, behavioral health needs and
498 offer training to all willing persons involved in Connecticut
499 Community KidCare, including, but not limited to, employees in
500 education and child care and appropriate employees within the
501 judicial system.

502 [(c) The Commissioners of Children and Families and Social
503 Services shall, within available appropriations, design and conduct a
504 five-year independent longitudinal evaluation with evaluation goals
505 and methods utilizing an independent evaluator. The evaluation shall
506 assess changes in outcomes for individual children, youths and
507 families, evaluate the effectiveness of the overall initiative in the early
508 phases to guide future expansion of Connecticut Community KidCare
509 and examine benefits, costs and cost avoidance achieved by it. Such
510 evaluation may include, but is not limited to, the following: (1)
511 Utilization of out-of-home placements; (2) adherence to system of care
512 principles; (3) school attendance; (4) delinquency recidivism rates; (5)
513 satisfaction of families and children and youths with Connecticut
514 Community KidCare as assessed through client satisfaction surveys;
515 (6) coordination of Connecticut Community KidCare with the juvenile
516 justice, child protection, adult behavioral health and education
517 systems; and (7) the quality of transition services.]

518 Sec. 12. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) The Commissioner of
519 Children and Families and the Chief Court Administrator shall

520 establish, within available appropriations, a pilot program to integrate
521 the initial written plan for care, treatment and permanent placement of
522 children and youth required under section 17a-15 of the general
523 statutes, with the specific steps for family reunification ordered by the
524 court pursuant to subsection (j) of section 46b-129of the general
525 statutes. The Commissioner of Children and Families, in consultation
526 with the Chief Court Administrator, shall designate one Department of
527 Children and Families' area office to participate in the pilot program.
528 The pilot program shall terminate not later than October 1, 2011.

529 (b) A court services officer of the court participating in the pilot
530 program shall be responsible for convening a meeting to develop the
531 treatment plan and proposed specific steps for the child and family,
532 and shall invite the parents or guardians, the child or youth, when
533 appropriate, and their respective attorneys, department staff
534 responsible for developing and implementing treatment plans, and
535 individuals involved in assessing needs and providing services for the
536 child and family. Whenever possible, such meetings shall be convened
537 at times and held in places that maximize the likelihood that children,
538 youth and their parents and guardians will be able to attend.

539 (c) Following the meeting, the court shall order specific steps that
540 the parent must take to facilitate the return of the child or youth to the
541 custody of such parent. In addition to satisfying the requirements set
542 forth in subsection (a) of section 17a-15 of the general statutes for the
543 Department of Children and Families' written plan for the care,
544 treatment and permanent placement of every child under the
545 commissioner's supervision, the plan shall also include, but not be
546 limited to: (1) Assessment of the health and welfare of the child or
547 youth; (2) an evaluation of the problems and strengths of each child or
548 youth; (3) the proposed plan of treatment services and temporary
549 placement, and a goal for permanent placement of the child or youth;
550 and (4) specific planning goals and clear, comprehensive, time-
551 sensitive action steps for educational and behavioral health needs.

552 (d) The Commissioner of Children and Families and the Chief Court
553 Administrator shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the
554 general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General
555 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services and
556 judiciary and the select committee of the General Assembly having
557 cognizance of matters relating to children not later than February 1,
558 2012, concerning the results of such pilot program. The report shall
559 include an independent assessment of the impact of the pilot program
560 on the quality of written treatment plans, consistency between
561 treatment plans and specific steps, and participation of parents or
562 guardians, the child or youth, when appropriate, and their respective
563 attorneys, department staff responsible for developing and
564 implementing treatment plans, and individuals involved in assessing
565 needs and providing services for the child or youth and his or her
566 family. The report shall also include a recommendation on whether the
567 program should be expanded state-wide.

568 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 17a-450a of the general statutes is
569 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
570 *1, 2009*):

571 (b) The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services shall
572 constitute a successor department to the addiction services component
573 of the Department of Public Health and Addiction Services. Whenever
574 the words "Commissioner of Public Health and Addiction Services" are
575 used or referred to in the following general statutes, the words
576 "Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services" shall be
577 substituted in lieu thereof and whenever the words "Department of
578 Public Health and Addiction Services" are used or referred to in the
579 following general statutes, the words "Department of Mental Health
580 and Addiction Services" shall be substituted in lieu thereof: 4a-12, [17a-
581 3,] 17a-465a, 17a-670 to 17a-676, inclusive, 17a-678 to 17a-682, inclusive,
582 17a-684 to 17a-687, inclusive, 17a-691, 17a-694, 17a-710, 17a-712, 17a-
583 713 19a-89c, 20-74o, 20-74p, 20-74q, 21a-274a, 54-36i and 54-56g.

584 Sec. 14. Subsection (b) of section 17a-210c of the general statutes is
585 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
586 *1, 2009*):

587 (b) Whenever the term "Commissioner of Mental Retardation" is
588 used or referred to in the following sections of the general statutes, the
589 term "Commissioner of Developmental Services" shall be substituted
590 in lieu thereof: 4-5, 4b-3, 4b-23, 8-3e, 10-76i, [17a-4a,] 17a-22a, 17a-210,
591 17a-212, 17a-212a, 17a-214, 17a-215a, 17a-215b, 17a-217a, 17a-218, 17a-
592 218a, 17a-225, 17a-226, 17a-227a, 17a-228, 17a-229, 17a-230, 17a-232,
593 17a-238, 17a-240, 17a-241, 17a-242, 17a-244, 17a-246, 17a-247a, 17a-248,
594 17a-270, 17a-272, 17a-273, 17a-274, 17a-276, 17a-277, 17a-281, 17a-282,
595 17a-582, 17a-584, 17a-586, 17a-587, 17a-588, 17a-592, 17a-593, 17a-594,
596 17a-596, 17a-599, 17b-28a, 17b-244, 17b-244a, 17b-337, 17b-340, 17b-
597 492b, 19a-24, 19a-411, 19a-580d, 20-14j, 20-571, 45a-670, 45a-674, 45a-
598 676, 45a-677, 45a-681, 45a-682, 45a-692, 46a-11a, 46a-11c, 46a-11f, 54-
599 56d, 54-102g and 54-102h.

600 Sec. 15. Sections 17a-4a, 17a-6b, 17a-6c, 17a-21, 17a-91a, 17a-116b
601 and 46b-121m of the general statutes are repealed. (*Effective July 1,*
602 *2009*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-3
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-6(b)
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-27f
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	46a-13l
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-4
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-1
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-22b(a)
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-145
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-37
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-22c
Sec. 12	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

Sec. 13	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-450a(b)
Sec. 14	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	17a-210c(b)
Sec. 15	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	Repealer section

Statement of Purpose:

To implement the 2008 recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee regarding the Department of Children and Families by improving the department's monitoring and evaluation system.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]